

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02093 221618Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 EB-07 /048 W

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R 202130Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 475

INFO UNITED STATES POSTAL SYSTEM WASHDC

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 2093

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETEL, PFOR, PGOV, HA

SUBJECT: STAMP SCANDAL: TRIAL TO BEGIN AUGUST 26

REF: PAP 2005

1. DAILY NEWSPAPER LE MATIN STATED AUGUST 20 THAT THE TRIAL OF 10 STAMP SCANDAL DEFENDENTS WOULD BEGIN AUGUST 26. DEFENDENTS' NAMES NOT REVEALED, BUT ADDED THAT THE DELAY ALLOWED FOR APPEALING THE DECISION OF THE INSTRUCTION JUDGE HAD EXPIRED, AND THAT BY AUGUST 26 THE 20 DAYS ALLOWED EUGENE MAXIMILIEN TO ANSWER HIS SUMMONS WILL HAVE EXPIRED. THE TRIAL WILL BE TELEVISED.

2. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SERGE FOURCAND WAS PERSUADED NOT TO APPEAL, WHICH WOULD HAVE DELAYED THE TRIAL'S OPENING. HE HAD ALREADY SERVED 5 MONTHS IN DETENTION AND EVEN IF CONVICTED HE PRESUMABLY ONLY FACES A MAXIMUM 6 MONTHS PRISON SENTENCE,

AGAINST WHICH HIS DETENTION TIME WOULD BE CREDITED. OTHERS KNOWN TO BE DEFENDENTS ARE MR. & MRS. FRANTZ LEROY AND MAXIMILIEN'S SON. IF EUGENE MAXIMILIEN FAILS TO APPEAR AT THE TRIAL, HE BECOMES SUBJECT TO THE FULL APPLICATION OF THE PROCEDURAL PENALTIES PROVIDED IN CRIMINAL CODE ARTS 366-379, INCLUDING CONFISCATION ON ALL HIS PROPERTY AND GOODS.

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